



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**Region 5**

**77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**DATE:** June XX, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Results for Samples Collected from Your Enter Location where samples were collected for Enter Contaminants with Results on Lab Report

**TO:** Mr. or Ms. First and Last Name  
Street Address  
City, Wisconsin Zip Code

**FROM:** U.S. EPA Region 5

As you recall, U.S. EPA collected water samples from your outside spigot on October 24, 2017. We wanted to let you know that the Juneau County and Wood County Health Departments have recently conducted additional sampling for nitrates in homeowners' wells in your area. The Juneau County Health Department is interested in comparing your results to the results from samples that they collected and asked EPA if that would be possible. In order to protect your privacy, EPA does not release residential addresses. If you are interested in sharing your results with the Health Department, you can contact Barb Theis with the Juneau County Health Department to share your results. Ms. Theis can be reached at (608) 847-9373 or [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:btheis@co.juneau.wi.us"](mailto:btheis@co.juneau.wi.us) ].

When the EPA results were received from the October 24, 2017 sampling, we communicated the results to you by phone. Those water samples were analyzed for *E.coli*, total coliform, nitrate-nitrite, ammonia-nitrogen, total kjedahl nitrogen, and total phosphorus. The attached laboratory reports show that the nitrate-nitrite results for your drinking water samples were at XX milligrams per liter (mg/L), which is above EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 mg/L for nitrate-nitrite in drinking water. *E.coli* and total coliform were non-detect and the other parameters do not have drinking standards associated with them.

Since the nitrate levels found in your well are above the MCL, EPA recommends that you take the following actions outlined in the attached June 15, 2018 press release from the Wood and Juneau County Health and Land and Water Resource Departments:

- Infants less than six months, pregnant women, and women who may become pregnant should immediately stop using the high nitrate water for drinking or preparing foods (infant formula, soup, rice).
- Everyone should avoid long-term consumption of water with high nitrate levels.
- It is okay to use the water for activities like showering and household chores.

High nitrate levels are a health risk particularly for children less than six months old. Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant should also pay attention to nitrate levels. To learn more about nitrate in drinking water and what you can do to protect yourself and your family from high levels of nitrate, see the attached April 2018 factsheet from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as well as the attached brochure from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any technical questions regarding these results, please contact EPA's Cheryl Burdett at (312) 886-1463 or [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov"](mailto:burdett.cheryl@epa.gov) ]. If you have any questions on health-related issues, you may contact your personal physician or Barb Theis of the Juneau County Health Department at the contact information above. You may also contact Ms. Theis with any questions about Juneau County's sampling efforts.

Attachments:

1. Laboratory Report with Final Analytical Results
2. June 15, 2018 Press Release from the Wood and Juneau County Health and Land and Water Resource Departments: "High Nitrate in Private Drinking Wells"
3. April 2018 Fact Sheet from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services: "Nitrate in Private Well Water"
4. Brochure from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: "Nitrate in Drinking Water"